

Staff Report

Date: January 18, 2010

To: RVCA Board of Directors

From: Director, Watershed Science and Engineering Services

Subject: **Britannia Village Flood Control Project - Update**

Recommendation:

that this report be received for information purposes

Background

Staff last briefed the Board of Directors on the status of this proposed project in August 2009, at which time further work on the detailed design had been suspended pending the resolution of two inter-related issues – land/easement acquisition and funding approval.

City staff are preparing a report and recommendations for consideration by Committee of Council in the near future.

Since August, the ownership status of filled lands on which some of the proposed works would be constructed has been investigated by the City's legal and realty personnel. Whether private interests or the Crown could successfully claim ownership of them remains uncertain.

RVCA staff prepared an updated evaluation of the project's expected costs and benefits, in the form of a letter dated November 18, 2009 (attached hereto), to provide supporting background information for the City staff's report to Committee and Council.

The estimated cost to deliver the project has been increased to approximately \$605,000 in consideration of the additional complexity and expenses associated with negotiating as many as 21 individual easement agreements (as opposed to 7 as previously assumed), as well as the inflationary costs associated with delayed progress.

Meanwhile, the benefits – i.e. reduction in average annual flood damages - that would be accomplished by the project are likely less than has previously been estimated or

assumed, for a number of reasons that are discussed in the November 18, 2009 correspondence.

In view of this updated (albeit qualitative) assessment of the project's benefits and costs, the City and community could logically be led to a decision to proceed no further with the implementation of this remedial flood control project, on the basis that the cost of building it will exceed the present value of the benefits to be gained from it.

If the project does not proceed, other measures that can and should be considered to further reduce the flood damage potential in this community include:

- flood-proofing of individual structures within the flood-prone area by landowners
- continued flood forecasting and warning services by the RVCA in cooperation with MNR and the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board
- flood contingency planning by residents, landowners and the City
- continued delivery of established flood control operations by the City

B.A. Reid, P.Eng
January 18, 2010

Attachment: 8 page letter dated November 18, 2009